

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADANA 00180 140711Z
ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADANA 180
E. O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: POLITICAL TRENDS ANALYSIS: END OF SUMMER WRAP-
UP
REF: ANKARA 6317
1. THERE FOLLOWS CONSULATE ADANA'S CONTRIBUTION TO
CURRENT TURKISH POLITICAL TRENDS ANALYSIS PER PARA 9
REFTEL.
2. WE ARE ON SAFE GROUND IN SAYING THAT THE MOST
IMPORTANT DOMESTIC ISSUE HERE IS "WHERE IS THE
MONEY COMING FROM?" CONCERN OVER THE STATE OF THE
TURKISH ECONOMY IS THE PRIMARY TOPIC AMONG THE
ELITE IN THIS AGRO-COMMERCIALLY ORIENTED REGION.
ALLIED TO THIS IS FEAR THAT ECONOMIC COLLAPSE MAY
LEAD TO POLITICAL COLLAPSE AND THE ECLIPSE OF
PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY.

PAGE 2 RUFLEPA6650 C O N F I D E N T I A L
2. RIGHTIST-- LEFTISTS VIOLENCE CAN SAFELY BE SAID TO
BE OF GREAT BUT YET SECONDARY CONCERN. THERE IS DIS-
CERNABLE NERVOUSNESS ON THE PART OF THE VALI, THE
CHIEF OF SECURITY, AND THE CHIEF PROSECUTOR, ONE SUS-
PECTS NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF VIOLENCE AND PUBLIC REACTION
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PAGE 02 ADANA 00180 140711Z

TO IT, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF ITS CONTINUING IMPACT ON
THEIR CAREER ASPIRATIONS. THE IMPRESSION IS THAT
THEY ARE UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
TO STOP KILLINGS AND MAIMINGS BUT ARE ABJURED TO
USE VERY SPARINGLY THE WEAPONS THEY COUNT ON MOST:
LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, POLICE, AND MILITARY FORCE.
WE SUSPECT CURRENT GOVERNMENT HAS MADE THEM VERY

SENSITIVE TO POSSIBLE CHARGES OF BRUTALITY OR EXTRA-LEGALITY. STUDENT VIOLENCE BETWEEN THE ASCENDING LEFTISTS AND EMBATTLED RIGHTISTS IS THOUGHT LIKELY TO CONTINUE THIS AUTUMN. DESPITE OCCASIONAL RUMOURS OF ECEVIT GOVERNMENT PARTISANSHIP, THE GENERAL FEELING IS THAT THE LEFTIST MOVEMENT'S CONFIDENCE IS SELF-WINDING.

3. IN SPITE OF THEIR LAISSEZ-FAIRE IMAGE, THE FEW

PAGE 3 RUFLEPA6650 C O N F I D E N T I A L

REALLY PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED RECENTLY APPEAR TO REGARD ECEVIT FAVORABLY. THIS CERTAINLY IS NOT A PRODUCT OF "LEFTIST CONVERSIONS", BUT OF THE FEELING THAT ECEVIT IS DOING BETTER THAN ANY ALTERNATIVE POLITICIAN COULD BE EXPECTED TO DO WITH THE CURRENT ECONOMIC MESS AND THAT HIS POLICIES ARE LESS ANTI-BUSINESS THAN ANTICIPATED. FEARS OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL COLLAPSE HAVE ALSO PRODUCED A RALLY-ROUND-THE FLAG SYNDROME AMONG SOME THAT TEMPERS INCLINATIONS TO CRITICIZE. PREDICTABLY, HOWEVER, THE CABINET DOES NOT SHARE ECEVIT'S IMMUNITY AND THE MENTION OF INDIVIDUAL MINISTERS OR HIGH FUNCTIONARIES CAN DRAW EXASPERATED GESTURES FROM BUSINESS LEADERS. SIMILARLY THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AS A CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ADANA 00180 140711Z

WHOLE HAVE NOT BEEN DENOUNCED, ALTHOUGH SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THOSE POLICIES ARE SUBJECT TO DISAGREEMENT. AS WOULD BE EXPECTED, LOCAL FEDERAL OFFICIALS (WITH THE PARTIAL POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE LAW ENFORCERS MENTIONED ABOVE) APPEAR COMPLETELY SUPPORTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS POLICIES. THE ONLY LOCAL NEWSPAPER

PAGE 4 RUFLEPA6650 C O N F I D E N T I A L

WORTHY OF THE NAME IS PUBLISHED BY A LONGTIME MEMBER AND OFFICEHOLDER IN THE RPP. HE RECENTLY GRUMBLED THAT ECEVIT IS NOT GOING FAR ENOUGH IN HIS OVERTURES TO THE "EASTERN BLOC" AND THE THIRD WORLD, BUT THE REMARK SEEMED MORE AN EFFORT TO PROVOKE THE CONSUL THAN A CONVINCED CRITICISM. AT THIS POINT WE HAVE TOO LITTLE WITH WHICH TO SERIOUSLY EVALUATE PUBLIC REACTIONS OR EXPECTATIONS REGARDING THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT.

4. ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, OUR RECENT CONTACTS HAVE PLACED PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, JUST AS THEY HAVE WITH DOMESTIC ISSUES. WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER, NO ONE SEEMS TO BE BUYING

THE IDEA THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS LED AN ECONOMIC EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY OR IS OTHERWISE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC WOES. THERE IS WIDESPREAD HOPE THAT WE WILL BE GENEROUS WITH OUR HELP: IF WE ARE NOT AND/OR IF THE ECONOMIC CRUNCH MANIFESTS ITSELF TANGIBLY TO THE POPULATION AT LARGE, WE MAY WELL BECOME THE SCAPEGOAT - BUT WE ARE NOT YET.

5. REOPENING OF AMERICAN BASE FACILITIES HAS RECEIVED

PAGE 5 RUFLEPA6650 C O N F I D E N T I A L
MODERATE AND BENIGN ATTENTION AMONG THE LOCAL ELITE, AND IS VIEWED FAVORABLE BY TURKISH MILITARY OFFICERS
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PAGE 04 ADANA 00180 140711Z

WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED. LEFTIST YOUNGSTERS SCRIBBLE ON WALLS AGAINST THE IDEA, BUT ON THE WHOLE, WE WOULD DESCRIBE THE REACTION AS INDIFFERENT TO FAVORABLE. NO DOUBT THOSE WITH THE MOST INTEREST HAVE AN EYE ON WHAT TURKEY WILL GET OUT OF A NEW DCA: THE BUSINESSMEN AND LOCAL OFFICIALS HOPE FOR MONEY, THE MILITARY OFFICERS FOR WEAPONS AND TRAINING.

6. THIS MAY REFLECT THE NARROW RANGE OF OUR SUMMER CONTACTS, BUT THEY ARE ASTONISHINGLY INDIFFERENT TO THE CYPRUS QUESTION - VIEWING IT AS AN UNNECESSARILY EXPENSIVE ANNOYANCE THAT SHOULD JUST GO AWAY. RECENTLY AT A FAIRLY LARGE DINNER PARTY A YOUNG TURKISH SCHOLAR DESCRIBED THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS AS "A DANGEROUS ADVENTURE INTO PAN-TURANISM", AND NO ONE DISAGREED WITH HIM. WITHDRAWAL OF TURKISH TROOPS FROM CYPRUS GETS FAVORABLE NEWS COVERAGE AND PRIVATE COMMENT. THERE MUST BE HEREABOUTS THOSE OF THE BLOODY SHIRT WHO WANT TO FIGHT FOR TURKISH MINORITY RIGHTS IN

PAGE 6 RUFLEPA6650 C O N F I D E N T I A L
CYPRUS, BUT THEY ARE EVIDENTLY ON HOLIDAY IN THE MOUNTAINS.

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